

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A method for preventing T cell mediated tissue destruction associated with type I diabetes comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a prophylactically effective amount of a gp39 antagonist selected from the group consisting of soluble CD40, CD40 fusion protein, and an anti-gp39 antibody, or a fragment thereof that binds gp39, wherein the anti-gp39 antibody is ~~or fragment binds to an epitope recognized by a monoclonal antibody~~ produced by 24-31 hybridoma, ATCC Accession Number HB 11712, and tissue destruction results from a T cell mediated immune reaction to an autoantigen.

2-4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the gp39 antagonist is an anti-gp39 antibody.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the anti-gp39 antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the anti-gp39 antibody is an anti-human gp39 antibody.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the monoclonal antibody is 24-31.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the monoclonal antibody is a chimeric monoclonal antibody containing constant regions and variable regions from different species.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the monoclonal antibody is a humanized monoclonal antibody.

11. (Canceled).

12.-14. (Canceled).

15.-16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the chimeric monoclonal anti-gp39 antibody comprises a variable region of monoclonal antibody 24-31.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the humanized monoclonal anti-gp39 antibody comprises a hypervariable region of monoclonal antibody 24-31.

20-21. (Canceled ).